



Saxman, Ketchikan P.O., Alaska.

Nov. 12, 1908.

Mr. H. C. Olin,
New York City,

My dear Mr. Olin:-

I received your last letter about the
New England Fish Company.

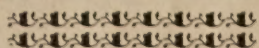
Mr. John W. Stedman, Ketchikan Agent of the New England Fish Company, declares now that he has looked into the records of the Land Office at Juneau and found nothing in regard to this Saxman Mission site, and that that Land Office, Mr. Updegraf, Chief of the Alaska Division of the Bureau of Education, and the Secretary of the Interior, have told him to go ahead and construct his line along this shore back of our houses here in Saxman, paying no attention whatever to the claims of the Indians here. This being the case, your letter which I wanted very much to receive as soon as my inquiries reached your office last summer, is now wholly ignored by this Fish Company through its agent. In my absence over to Kasaan yesterday, the leading men here sent a cablegram to Dr. Jackson in Washington, D.C., asking for an official record of this Saxman Mission site. Can you look into this matter at once, and send me a transcript of the survey that was authorized by the Home Board either in 1895 or

2.

1896, or somewhere thereabouts? I must have this record on hand so that I can protect these grounds. We will not object to the Fish Company running its line across this town site as long as it does not own nor claim any areas of lands back of our homes here. Will you kindly please see to this at once and let me hear from you immediately. The grounds here were located by the Home Board before my day and there have been no records left here in my possession about the whole situation.

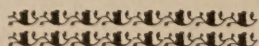
Yours very truly,

Edward Marsden
Missionary.



Wholesale
Dealers in

Fresh
Halibut



O. M. ARNOLD, President

A. F. RICH, Sec. and Treas.

— OFFICE OF —

New England Fish Company

JOHN W. STEDMAN, Agent

P. O. Address: Ketchikan, Alaska

BELLANNA, ALASKA

Ketchikan, Alaska,

November 24th.-1908 .-

Rev. Charles L. Thompson, D.D.

Secretary - Board of Home Missions.

New York City - N. Y.

My Dear Mr. Thompson,

I received a letter today from Mr. Updegraff in regard to the transmission line that we wish to secure across certain lands back of the native village of Saxman, Alaska. This proposed line is for the transmission of electricity from power plant located about six miles from Ketchikan to our freezer and factory located about 2 miles from Saxman. The same runs back of the village fully one half mile from the beach and does not interfere in the least with any of the native homes or with anything that the Government may require of the reservation in the future and has been suggested should in years to come their houses would reach us or in other words come back to the transmission line that the same would be dedicated as a street and would not interfere any more than a telephone or electric light wire passing through a street in town. It might be well for me to explain here Mr. Thompson that this proposed plant is being erected for the New England Fish Co. who are spending a large amount of money on the property for the purpose of freezing fish and shipping them fresh and as we depend to a large extent upon the natives for our source of supply you can readily see that it is a very good thing for them, as it gives them a constant employment the year round with pay for their

products every day in the year. I have had this matter up with the Land Office, Governor, Secretary of Interior, and I do not think there is a gentleman connected with any business in the Government but will thoroughly recommend this project. As it is our intention to buy and handle the products as I said before they will prove of a great value to the natives here as a livelihood every day in the year.

Trusting that you will look favorably upon this matter or will consult with Mr. Updegraff or Governor Hoggart before passing on same, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

John W. Hedman

P.S.— We would request that no delay be made in this matter and I am also sending you under separate cover a recommend from your local missionary, Rev. Marsden. I might also add to the above that the New England Fish Co. is a Boston corporation and has been in business a great number of years and it will be very easy for you to ascertain their standing.

Respectfully yours,

as above

Property
Saxman, Alaska

December 12th, 1908.

Rev. Edward Marsden,

Saxman, Ketchikan P.O., Alaska.

Dear Mr. Marsden:-

Your letter of November 12th came duly to hand. Answer has been held for a little time in order to go carefully over the records and to communicate with Dr. Sheldon Jackson in Washington.

We now find, by letter from Dr. Jackson, that Saxman land was surveyed and platted at his (Dr. Jackson's) expense, but that either the surveyor did not record his field notes and plat, as he should have done, or the Surveyor General ~~did~~ failed to record them when sent in. They do not appear upon the books as they should.

Under date of January 16th, 1905, we addressed a letter to the Hon. W. J. Distin, Surveyor General of Alaska, at Sitka, from which the following is an extract covering Saxman and other points surveyed:

"Through the last report of the Department of the Interior we note, in the report of the Surveyor General of Alaska, that certain mission lands have been surveyed on account of this Board at certain points in Alaska where it is carrying on missions. These points are as follows: Wrangle, Saxman, Haines, Sitka, St. Lawrence Island, Howkan (Jackson), Hoonah, Eagle, Point Barrow. May I ask that you will at once furnish us with metes and bounds of each tract which has been thus surveyed, on behalf of this Board."

You will see from the above that formal notice was published in the report of the Department of the Interior that Saxman, among other points, had been surveyed on account of this Board.

I think it would be well, under the circumstances, for you to visit Juneau, see Surveyor General Distin with the facts in hand as I have given them, and ascertain whether Dr. Jackson's notes and plat cannot be found, and to ascertain what further steps are necessary for the Board of Home Missions to take in order that formal application may now be made. We take it that it will not be too late to make this formal application.

Rev. Edward Marsden.

2.

Meantime, we have a letter from Mr. Stedman, a copy of which I give you. Will you be good enough to communicate with Mr. Stedman, and if necessary, consult with Mr. Updegraff or Governor Hoggart.

Let us hear fully, please, after you have thus proceeded.

Yours very truly,

Treasurer.

O/S

File Alaska

Saxman, Ketchikan P.O., Alaska.

December 25, 1908.

Mr. H. B. Olin,
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City.

My dear Mr. Olin: - Your letter of the 12th inst., ^{a copy of} without inclosing Mr. Stedman's note as mentioned, is received, and I hasten to reply.

It was in the summer of 1900 that I visited Sitka for a little while, and while there copied in full the field notes and plat of the grounds ^{Saxman} made by J. W. Young, Deputy Surveyor from the records of the then Land Office at Sitka. The survey was made, as you say, in the name of the Home Board at Dr. Jackson's expense, and this preliminary work was done over one year, I suppose, before I returned from Behol. I kept this copy on file together with my papers, and when I wanted to make use of it during this last summer the paper was no where to be found. Since 1900, and until this home was erected, we had to move from house to house four times and I thought that in that way the copy in question was lost.

In answer to my letter of last October, and after we have failed to find any records of this Saxman Mission reservation in the Land

Office at Juneau. Judge Folsom, U. S. Commissioner at Juneau, told Mr. Jones that the records we wanted were to be found in the local Office at Sitka. A long while before yours of the 12th inst. is received, I wrote to Mr. Beattie to search at my expense the records of the U. S. Commissioner at Sitka, copy the same, &c. and I have not yet heard from him. In the meantime I am going to dig among my papers and find that copy of which I speak, although I do not think that I shall find it. As soon as I hear from Mr. Beattie, and if the circumstances will warrant it I shall at once go to Juneau as per your instructions.

A man came here about two years ago to survey the Presbyterian Mission property at this place, and when he found out that the Home Board had no building or buildings here neither any improved property of any kind, he refused to survey the mile square on which Saxman was founded because it was contrary to his instructions. He left us the same half hour that he came and it was on a Sabbath day. In his report to the Land Office at Juneau, he stated that I gave him to understand that "this land belonged to the Indians and not to the Home Board." The fact was that I told him very

plainly that this mile square was located and first surveyed in the name of the Presbyterian Home Board in New York for mission purposes and for the use of the Indians that lived here, and if there was any survey to be made here this whole mile square should be surveyed. The man then said, "I have a contract to survey mission properties, and not townsites."

But as I have said before in this letter, I shall await a ~~for~~ reply from Litka before I can incur the expense of going to the Land Office at Juneau.

With many kind wishes of the holidays,
I am,

Yours very sincerely
Edward Marsden

January 6th, 1909.

Rev. Edward Marsden,

Saxman, Ketchikan P.O., Alaska.

Dear Mr. Marsden:-

Yours of the 25th ult., is at hand this morning. We are greatly surprised that the copy of Mr. Stedman's letter alluded to was not enclosed; it was copied and certainly we intended to so enclose it. I hand you the missing copy herewith.

Your kind of procedure in the matter of making records on the Saxman property is most informing. We shall hope that Mr. Beatty will be able to turn up something that will be of use to you, and that certainly a visit to Juneau and conference with the officials there may rehabilitate the Saxman claim with the Government.

The fact that the Home Board had no buildings upon the property at the time the Surveyor was there, would, in my opinion, not militate against our claim, if it could be shown that work was being carried on, and that the ~~property~~ property was necessary for prospective buildings, and for the training of the natives in the construction of civilized homes.

Kindly keep me posted as to the result of your letter to Mr. Beatty, and of your investigations at Juneau.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year, believe me,

Very cordially yours,

Treasurer.

(Enclosure)

o/s

Sarmiut Ketchikan P.O. Alaska.
January 29, 1909.

Mr. H.C. Eliu, Treasurer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Eliu:- I have tried to find
where the records of the Sarmiut Mission
grounds were but am unable to do
it. I have heard from Mr. Beattie at Little
and he fails to give me what I want.
The only thing now left for me to do is
to go to London, as you directed, and there
make a formal application for an official
survey of this place. It is not too late
for us to do this as the Norwegian Fish
Company will not do anything along their
power line until sometime in March. Now
I want to hear from you again before I go
to London as to the expenses of my trip, of the
drawing up of certain legal instruments and of
the location and survey of this place. Please
answer this definitely at once so I can go ahead
without fail. Yours very sincerely
Edward Marsden

February 9th, 1909.

Rev. Edward Marsden,

Saxman, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Marsden:-

Yours of the 29th ult., with special reference to the survey of the Saxman Mission grounds, etc., is at hand. Let me say in reply to your request, that you are authorized to go to Juneau at your earliest convenience, call upon Surveyor General Distin, ascertain from him the present status of things as they relate to your Mission, and follow his directions as to a formal application. It may be that he will require that this application shall be made in the name of the Board of Home Missions, by an official of this Board. If so, kindly get all the information necessary, with the date when such application must be filed; as to whether a copy must be filed in Juneau and one in Washington. In fact, all information necessary to an intelligent application.

It may be that you can perform all this service at Juneau and thus facilitate matters.

The expenses of the trip and necessary expenditures for such legal steps as may be necessary, within a reasonable amount, are authorized.

Very cordially yours,

Treasurer.

O/S

FEB 6 1918

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORKTERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D. D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

January 24th, 1918

Rev. John Dixon, D.D.,

156 5th Avenue, New York.

My dear Dr. Dixon:

I enclose, attached, copy of letter recently received from W.A. Bryant,
together with a copy of my reply thereto, which are self explanatory.

Some time ago Mr. Olin sent me the following memorandum relative to this lease:

" Ketchikan (Johnson Building) Lease

This lease was executed on March 15th, 1914, between M.A. Mitchell,
Administrator of the Estate of Peter K. Johnson, deceased, and
the Board of Home Missions, leasing to the latter-

"that certain tract of tide land situated on

"Stedman Street in Indian Town, Ketchikan, Alaska,

"with the buildings located thereon familiarly

"known as the Old Peter Johnson Billiard Hall."

for the term of five years from the 15th day of March, 1914,
at the annual rental of \$75 payable in advance on the 15th day
of ~~March~~ every March during said term of five years.

There was also included in the lease the following special
agreement, viz:-

"AND IT IS FARTHER AGREED that the said party

"of the second part shall keep the taxes paid

"up and make any necessary repairs at its own expense

"during the term of this lease."

(signed) H.C.Olin. "

I have just consulted with Judge Gunnison regarding this clause of the
lease and it is his opinion that the Board is bound by the terms of the contract
to reshingle building. As I have indicated to Mr. Bryant it seems to me that
such an interpretation of "repairs" is a liberal one. However, I can only submit
the matter for the consideration of the Board.

Very sincerely yours,

James H. Condit

Copy

January 24th, 1918

Mr. W.A. Bryant, Administrator,

Ketchikan, Alaska.

Dear sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 12th inst., in which you indicate that the Peter Johnson building needs reshingling and other repairs in order to preserve it and that according to the terms of the lease our Board has obligated itself to make necessary repairs.

I am today referring your letter to the Board in New York for their consideration. So soon as I hear from the Board I will again communicate with you. I may say in passing that while I am not a lawyer, and so not competent to pass on the subject, it appears to me as a layman that it requires a liberal interpretation of the word "repairs" to include a new roof for the building. By the same interpretation I presume that the Board might be held for new floors, windows, doors and sides. However, as I say, I am not authority on that subject.

In the mean time may I suggest that you obtain an estimate of the amount required to reshingle the roof and make other necessary repairs. This estimate should be in my hands in order that the matter may be duly considered by our Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely,

James T. Condit

Copy

Ketchikan, Alaska, Jan. 12, 1918

Mr. J.H. Condit,

Juneau.

Dear Sir:

Regarding the Johnson property, which the Presbyterian Church leased for a church for the natives of Ketchikan, it needs reshingling and some other repairs such as glass in some of the windows. At the present time it is in such bad shape that it cannot be used and the building is fast going to decay.

According to the lease the Board agreed to keep the building in repair. I would urge that repairs be made as soon as possible to save further damage to the building.

Respectfully,

(signed) W.A. Bryant,

Administrator Estate of P.K. Johnson,
Leasor.

(over)

February 9th, 1918.

In re Ketchikan, Alaska.

Rev. James H. Condit, D.D.,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Condit:-

Your letter of the 24th ult. addressed to our Dr. Dixon in re the above matter has been placed in my hands for attention.

I think you did the right thing in replying to Mr. Bryant's letter as per copy furnished.

In addition to the points you have raised, I think that we should have a disinterested party look over the house, or some representative of the Board at least, so as to report whether the roof of the Johnson house actually needs to be reshingled. As the Board is receiving but \$75. per year rental from this house, and I note from our records that the taxes amount to about \$15. a year, it can readily be seen that if we are called upon to provide for extensive repairs, the result will be that Mr. Bryant the administrator has enjoyed the use of the house for a rather nominal sum, and the Board has realized very little net income from the rental. I am sure that our Finance Committee will require some other testimony besides that of Mr. Bryant as to the need for the reshingling of the building. We will await the receipt of a copy of the reply which Mr. Bryant sends you in answer to your request that he obtain an estimate of the amount required for all necessary repairs, including the reshingling, that it may be submitted here for consideration.

I cannot think but what Judge Gunnison's opinion is correct in that the Board is bound by the terms of the contract to reshingle the building, but this depends upon who shall determine whether this reshingling is necessary now, or can await a later time.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Treasurer.

B/H